



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 August 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- USA TODAY reports air travelers are checking an unprecedented amount of luggage after the recent disclosure of an alleged terrorist plot, an onslaught that threatens to overwhelm bomb detectors and create security gaps. (See item [13](#))
- Reuters reports Gulf Coast emergency rooms could not cope if a hurricane the size of Katrina strikes this year, according to a survey of the region's emergency physicians released on Thursday, August 24. (See item [22](#))
- The Border Governors Conference — including governors from U.S. and Mexican border states — meets August 24, and 25, in Austin, Texas; border security will top an agenda of economic issues, technology exchanges, oil and gas production, and electricity. (See item [25](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 24, Associated Press* — **New Federal rule for gas companies.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Wednesday, August 23, announced a new rule requiring natural gas companies to report facility damage and service disruptions when a natural disaster causes a reduction in pipeline production or storage. The new rule will allow FERC to better

monitor and assess the physical state of the interstate natural gas pipeline grid and gas storage infrastructure when service is disrupted from hurricanes, other natural disasters, or acts of terrorism. "The rule fills a regulatory gap identified by the commission last year after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita...The commission lacked vital information on the physical condition of facilities that affected the operation of the pipeline grid," FERC Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher said. Current regulations only required regulated entities to report serious service disruptions, but not damage to the affected gas infrastructure. Under the new rule, companies are required to electronically file more specific information on the cause and the extent of damage done to gas infrastructure, even if there is no service interruption. Companies also must report the time of damage occurrence, emergency actions taken to maintain gas service, and when damaged facilities are fully restored to service.

FERC press release: <http://www.ferc.gov/press-room/press-releases/2006/2006-3/08-23-06.asp>

FERC Order: <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/Files/20060823093743-RM06-18-000.pdf>

Source: <http://www.kiplingerforecasts.com/apnews/XmlStoryResult.php?storyid=226047>

2. *August 24, Boston Globe* — **Security responsibilities at Pilgrim nuclear plant likely to shift to Entergy.** Entergy Corp., the owner of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Massachusetts, is seeking to take over management of the plant's security from Wackenhut Corp. The move occurs as public and governmental attention on nuclear plant management has intensified in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 2001 -- and some have faulted Wackenhut's performance. David Tarantino of Entergy said that his company's desire to take over its own security operation did not come from dissatisfaction with Wackenhut, but is designed to encourage more long-term employment among its guards. Although responsibility for security would shift from Wackenhut to Entergy, the workforce would remain largely the same. Wackenhut's employees at Pilgrim would be added to Pilgrim's current payroll. Tarantino noted that Entergy has brought security forces under in-house control at some of its other nuclear plants.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/08/24/security_shift_at_pilgrim_guards_employer_agrees_to_change?mode=PF
3. *August 24, Bloomberg* — **BP cuts output at biggest U.S. oilfield a second time.** BP Plc, Europe's largest oil company by reserves, cut production at the biggest oilfield in the U.S. for a second time in less than a month because of a gas compressor breakdown. BP halted 90,000 barrels a day in output at its Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska Wednesday, August 23, bringing production to 110,000 barrels a day, because of a mechanical fault in Gathering Center 2, Daren Beaudou, a BP spokesperson, said. "The best we anticipate in correcting this is several days...There's no impact on supplies. We've identified enough stocks for refineries," Beaudou said.
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=ayQ23Shp6k_k&refer=energy
4. *August 23, China Daily* — **China plans large-scale investment in new energy.** China, the world's second-biggest energy consumer, plans to spend \$100 million over the next 10 years to study next-generation fuel, called natural gas hydrates, that could possibly ease the nation's increasing reliance on oil imports in the long run. The country expects technology to be viable between 2010 and 2015 for the trial exploration of the new energy source, a crystalline compound of water and natural gas with methane as its major ingredient, said an industry report

posted on the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Website. "But further technical breakthroughs need to be made before the fuel can be commercially developed," said a report. When lit, every cubic meter of gas hydrates is capable of releasing as much energy as 160 to 180 cubic meters of natural gas. Optimists say gas hydrates could reliably replace the conventional oil and coal, thanks to its abundant deposits under the sea. They believe that the world's gas hydrates reserves are equivalent to as much as twice the combined amount of coal, oil, and natural gas, sufficient to meet global energy demands for a thousand years.

Source: <http://powermarketers.netcontentinc.net/newsreader.asp?ppa=8knpq%5F%5BimojgjlTUiet%3EEvbfel%5Dv>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *August 24, Associated Press* — **Explosions rock Louisiana bomb plant.** A series of explosions and a fire at a Doyline, LA, plant where military bombs are disassembled forced the evacuation of more than 1,000 people from nearby schools and a jail. Three major highways near the northwestern Louisiana site were also closed, and at least 800 area residents were urged to evacuate. Explo Systems Inc. has a government contract to disassemble bombs and recycle the components at Camp Minden, a former Army ammunition plant. The explosion was the second in recent weeks at Camp Minden.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=2352381>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *August 25, Aviation Now* — **New DoD net-centric initiative focuses on data, no platforms.** Fearing that U.S. military services and officers are spending too much time worrying about tying together specific platforms into a communications net, the Department of Defense's (DoD) office of chief information officer (CIO) has embarked on an initiative to get the military to focus on data accessibility. By focusing on the point-to-point interfaces to meet net-centric needs, military officers are putting constraints on net-centric potential and the Global Information Grid (GIG), the backbone for the net-centric network. The key to making this all work, then, is not in the platforms as connection points, but in the software that makes it possible for everyone to dip into the ocean of information that the GIG should make available, no matter the person's classification status, according to the CIO. The software will have to allow communities of interest to dig up or put in data as they need it and when they need it, according to the CIO.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_netdefense_story.jsp?id=news/NET08246.xml

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 24, Register (UK)* — **Telephone redirect ruse hits California.** U.S. scammers were able to pose as a pizza outlet after an AT&T service rep redirected calls from cooks to crooks. Con men claiming that the phone at pizza outlets was malfunctioning persuaded the rep to set in place a call forwarding request to a number of their choosing. AT&T failed to make any checks. As a result, orders for pizzas were fielded by scammers, who insisted advanced payments needed to be made by credit card. Payment details were subsequently used to make fraudulent Internet purchases under the name of unsuspecting pizza customers. The beauty of this simple ruse is the potential victims would have no reason to be suspicious, because they initiated the orders. Two incidents of the scam have been reported in southern California, but it's unclear if the ruse has been replicated elsewhere.
Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/08/24/pizza_fraud_scam/
8. *August 24, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message with an invitation to take part in a survey. The e-mail claims that \$100 will be credited to the user's account for participating. The e-mail provides a link to a phishing site that requests user account information for the promised credit.
Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=584>
9. *August 24, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Salt Lake Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Salt Lake Credit Union, which is based in Utah. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message with an invitation to take part in a survey. The e-mail claims that \$20 will be credited to the user's account for participating. The e-mail provides a link leading to a phishing site that attempts to collect the users' account information.
Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=583>
10. *August 24, Sophos* — **Phishing attack focuses on adult Webcam users.** SophosLabs has warned Internet users that criminals are not just targeting online bankers in their phishing campaigns as an attack is launched against users of an adult Webcam site. Spam experts based in Sydney have identified an active phishing campaign focused on users of iFriends, which claims to be the world's largest online videochat community with more than two million registered users. Many of the video chatrooms hosted by iFriends are of an adult nature. The phishing e-mail encourages recipients to update their account information at iFriends. Phishers have set up a bogus Website to steal credit card information.
Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/08/ifriends-phish.html>
11. *August 24, Techworld* — **UK tops spyware infection charts.** The UK has the highest spyware infection rate of any European country, security vendor Webroot has said in its quarterly State of Spyware report. The report, based on an international survey of enterprise and consumer PCs, found that spyware infections are again on the rise after a lull last year. Said Webroot chief executive C. David Moll, "Spyware is a financially motivated threat and as long as there is a dollar to be had, cyber criminals will do everything possible to steal it." The UK took over from Ireland at the top of the spyware charts for the second quarter of 2006, with an average of 30.5 pieces of spyware per PC. Ireland followed with 30.3 spies per PC, Lithuania with 29.3 and Latvia with 26.5. The worldwide average was 24.5 spies per PC. While Webroot and others

say the targeting of English-language countries is a big factor upping the infection rate, the U.S. scored lower than the UK with an average of 30 spies per PC.

Source: <http://www.techworld.com/news/index.cfm?newsID=6707&printerfriendly=1>

12. *August 21, Register (UK)* — **SEC sues over stock market spam scam.** A U.S. couple has been charged over an allegation they made \$1 million via a stock market pump-and-dump scam, promoted using spam e-mails. Jeffrey Stone and Janette Diller Stone face a lawsuit from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) over their alleged use of junk mail tactics to artificially increase the value of stock they held in start-up firm WebSky Inc. They allegedly bought 288 million WebSky shares through various front organizations they controlled before selling them weeks later for a profit of \$1 million. The SEC alleges spam e-mails sent by stock promoters on behalf of the Stones falsely stated that WebSky's business in Argentina was bringing in revenues of \$40 million. In reality, the start-up had little or no revenue from Argentina at the time the spam e-mails began circulating. The junk e-mail campaign helped ramp up WebSky's share value by around 300 percent, according to the SEC. The dishonest promotion of WebSky shares is an example of so-called pump-and-dump stock campaigns which Sophos estimates currently account for approximately 15 percent of all junk mail.
- Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/08/21/sec_spam_scam_suit/

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *August 24, USA TODAY* — **Checked luggage strains security.** Air travelers are checking an unprecedented amount of luggage after the recent disclosure of an alleged terrorist plot, an onslaught that threatens to overwhelm bomb detectors and create security gaps, the nation's aviation-security chief said Wednesday, August 23. In an interview, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) head Kip Hawley said there has been a 20 percent surge in checked luggage at U.S. airports since liquids were banned from carry-on bags August 10, after British investigators said they had thwarted a plot to destroy U.S.-bound jets with liquid explosives. Domestic passengers usually check almost one billion bags each year, according to the Air Transport Association, an airline trade group. The increase means that the nation's security screeners are handling more than half a million additional checked bags each day. The sudden increase "puts on a strain that could result in some vulnerabilities," Hawley said. The system that screens all checked luggage for bombs "is being stressed," he said. Hawley said, "We want our (screeners) to focus on their security job without cutting corners because of volume pressure. ... Anytime you have a system that's overwhelmed, that's where failure is a concern."
- Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-08-23-checked-baggage_x.htm

14. *August 24, Associated Press* — **O'Hare receives grant for runway improvements.** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) chief Marion Blakey announced a \$10.6 million grant to improve a runway at O'Hare International Airport on Wednesday, August 23, part of the agency's efforts to build buffer zones that can slow down planes that overrun, undershoot or veer off runways. The new grant will improve an O'Hare runway built in 1970. That runway will be repaved and also will get the crushable concrete beds at its ends. "... an accident last December at Midway underscored the importance of improved runway safety areas," Blakey said. In that accident, a Southwest Airlines plane slid off a runway at Chicago's Midway

International Airport, crashing through a fence and killing a six-year-old boy, a passenger in a car. In June, the FAA announced a \$15 million dollar grant to upgrade runways at Midway, and the first of those runway improvements will be installed by the end of the year, said Chicago Aviation Commissioner Nuria Fernandez. The Midway grant and the one for O'Hare announced Wednesday are part of an FAA runway safety effort that began in 2000. During the past six years, the FAA has awarded more than \$800 million in grants to airports to improve runway safety areas, Blakey said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-08-24-runway-grant_x.htm

15. *August 23, Memphis Business Journal* — NWA to renegotiate Pinnacle's service agreement.

Pinnacle Airlines Corp. has been notified by Northwest Airlines Corp. (NWA) that the legacy carrier is "ready to engage in negotiations with Pinnacle on a possible new or amended Airline Services Agreement," (ASA) according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing by Pinnacle. Renegotiating the ASA is possible thanks to the NWA's Chapter 11 bankruptcy status. A renegotiated ASA will likely mean Pinnacle will need to provide the same level of service for less money, as NWA is seeking to cut costs.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060823/1334984.html?.v=1>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *August 24, Associated Press* — Suspicious powder called cornstarch. White powder was found in promotional mailings sent to medical centers raising suspicions until it was found to be cornstarch, authorities said Thursday, August 24. The bulk-mailing company that packaged the items had used the cornstarch to help items slide into the envelopes, Health Department spokesperson Richard McGarvey said. Medical facilities were put on alert Wednesday, August 23, after a field test on powder from a package showed a weak positive for botulinum, a spore that carries botulism. The powder's source was discovered after the FBI visited the New York bulk-mailing company that packaged the items for Positive Promotions, of Hauppauge, NY, McGarvey said. Positive Promotions sent about 4,000 of the mailings this week to hospitals, home health agencies and hospice organizations in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio, according to the industry group Health Alliance of Pennsylvania, which issued Wednesday's e-mail alert. The Pennsylvania Department of Health asked facilities in the state not to open the letters.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/08/24/pa_hospitals_warned_of_powder_in_mail/

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Agriculture Sector

17. *August 24, Western Farm Press* — Bacterial Spot identified in almonds. According to Colusa County, CA, farm advisor John Edstrom, precipitation from March through May totaled 9.8 inches, 300 percent above normal in Arbuckle for each of the three months. Growers were forced to repeatedly apply fungicides to protect the crop from most of the common fungal

diseases, and they generally held off the fungal onslaught. “However, our spray programs were not active against bacterial diseases and it appears that we have found a new one,” said Edstrom. In many orchards, the farm advisor found unusual leaf symptoms developed early, resembling bacterial blast and shot hole. Lab results did confirm some bacterial blast (*Pseudomonas syringae*) but very little fungal shot hole. “The leaf spotting seemed different than what is normal for blast or any other common almond disease,” he explained. Additional lab work conducted on almond leaves by Themis Michailides at the University of California–Davis isolated Bacterial Spot. It is now suspected this organism caused many of the confusing leaf symptoms up and down the valley. However, further tests must be completed next spring before the identification of Bacterial Spot can be confirmed. Bacterial spot can be very damaging, with severity of infection depending on rainfall and dew formation.

Source: [http://westernfarmpress.com/news/08-24-bacterial-spot-almond s/](http://westernfarmpress.com/news/08-24-bacterial-spot-almond-s/)

18. *August 23, CBC News (Canada)* — **Canada reports new case of mad cow disease.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed on Wednesday, August 23, a new case of mad cow disease in Alberta. It is Canada's fifth case in 2006 and the eighth since 2003, when the disease was first found in this country, officials said. This year's total has included two other cows from Alberta and one each from British Columbia and Manitoba. CFIA said the latest dead cow is believed to have been old enough to have contracted the disease — known formally as bovine spongiform encephalopathy — before Canada banned the use of cattle parts in cattle feed. The disease is thought to be spread mainly in contaminated feed.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/story/health/national/2006/08/23/mad-cow06 0-823.html>

19. *August 23, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found in Louisiana.** Asian soybean rust has been found in a commercial soybean field in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. The field also contains the soybean sentinel plot for the area. This brings to eight the number of Louisiana parishes in which soybean rust has been found on either soybeans or kudzu this year. The national count rises to 36 counties and parishes in seven states infected with rust at some point this year. Concordia Parish connects the two already confirmed infected parishes of Avoyelles and Tensas in west-central Louisiana, along the Mississippi River.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=927>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

20. *August 23, Delaware State News* — **Frederica’s water tainted.** Frederica, DE, residents have been advised not to drink the town water after the state Division of Public Health found *E. coli* in two water samples. Ed Hallock, program administrator for the state Office of Drinking Water, a section of the Division of Public Health, said the water is being retested and residents should know Friday, August 25, if it’s safe to drink. The Delaware National Guard supplied the

Kent County hamlet of 700 with two 500–gallon “water buffaloes” and a 5,000–gallon water tanker so residents have a safe alternative to the town’s drinking water.

Source: http://www.newszap.com/articles/2006/08/23/dm/central_delawa re/hj01.txt

21. *August 22, Associated Press* — **Water–treatment plant runs out of carbon, closes.** The Quail Creek Water Treatment plant, taken over by Washington County, UT, Water Conservancy District earlier this year, ran out of powder activated carbon for its filtration system and was closed down Monday, August 21. Carbon was to be delivered during the night, and officials hoped to put the plant back on line. The closure resulted in poor water pressure in some areas of St. George and other communities. St. George, Santa Clara, Ivins and Washington City also had to put their wells into service to meet water needs for a day and residents were urged to conserve water.

Source: http://kutv.com/topstories/local_story_234104725.html

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Public Health Sector

22. *August 24, Reuters* — **Gulf Coast hospitals seen unprepared for new storms.** Gulf Coast emergency rooms could not cope if a hurricane the size of Katrina strikes this year, according to a survey of the region's emergency physicians released on Thursday, August 24. A third of Gulf Coast emergency room doctors polled, most of whom stayed on during the floods and breaching of levees in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, said they would leave the area if things do not improve within a year, the report said. "The report serves as a warning: If working conditions are such that you can't have a viable practice and provide good patient care, you will leave," said Frederick Blum, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians, which conducted the poll. The survey of about 60 area emergency doctors, with an average of 13.5 years of experience, highlights the fragile state of medical care in the Gulf, doctors said. Two of the area's public hospitals have not yet re–opened, pushing more uninsured patients to emergency rooms. Seven of 22 hospitals remain closed. Just 1,200 doctors remain from about 4,500 before Katrina, the physicians' survey said.

Emergency Medicine One Year After Katrina:

<http://www.acep.org/NR/rdonlyres/ED6CC502–F9AE–4DCE–A318–85F5C9899DFA/0/KatrinaSurveyFinal.pdf>

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?view=CN&storyID=2006–08–24T050028Z_01_N22259575_RTRIDST_0_WEATHER–HURRICANES–HOSPITALS.XML&rpc=66&type=qcna

23. *August 23, Star–Telegram (TX)* — **Worst year yet for West Nile virus, officials say.** Public health officials are calling 2006 the worst year yet for West Nile virus in Tarrant County, TX, with 40 human cases and five deaths reported this summer. All of the deaths were of people older than 70, said Elvin Adams, medical director for Tarrant County Public Health. A Fort Worth resident died from pneumonia complicated by West Nile. Another Fort Worth resident in his 90s died from respiratory failure complicated by the virus. While there's reason to be cautious, this is not an epidemic, health officials said. The cases reported this year have been scattered across the county, Adams said. From June to August, the virus was confirmed by state and county officials in 23 males and 17 females. Of the 40 cases reported, five were treated as

outpatients. An estimated 5,000 people in Tarrant County have been exposed to the virus but have not become sick enough to go to the hospital, Adams said. The rest have mild symptoms including headache, fever, and aches. For every reported case, about 150 go unreported, Adams said.

West Nile virus information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/15339643.htm>

24. *August 23, Agence France–Presse* — Thailand to begin door–to–door bird flu education.

More than 800,000 health volunteers will be sent door–to–door in 30 Thai provinces to educate people on bird flu prevention, Thai health minister Pinij Jarusombat said. During a nine–day period beginning Wednesday, August 23, the health volunteers will visit each house in 30 provinces that have been affected by the H5N1 virus strain, and advise people on how to deal with sick or dead birds. Thailand has been on high alert after it reported its 16th bird flu death in August. It was the kingdom's second such fatality this year and followed news that 300,000 chickens were slaughtered to stem a new outbreak in the northeast. Thailand is among the countries hardest hit by the H5N1 virus, recording 24 human cases, 16 of them fatal, since the first outbreak in 2004.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060823/hl_afp/healthfluthailand_060823181956

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Government Sector

25. *August 24, Associated Press* — Border security tops agenda at governors' meeting. More federal money needs to flow into U.S.–Mexico border security, Texas Governor Rick Perry said Wednesday, August 23, as he prepared to address the subject in a meeting with fellow border state governors. Texas law enforcement efforts along its border with Mexico have helped reduce crime and could serve as a model for federal action, Perry said. Topping Perry's agenda is border security and getting the federal government to pay more of the expenses. He has said he'll ask the Texas Legislature next year to allocate \$100 million to continue Operation Linebacker, a border security program the state launched in the past year. The Border Governors Conference meets Thursday, August 24, and Friday, August 25, in Austin mostly in closed–door sessions. The governors of Texas, California, New Mexico, and Arizona are expected to attend, along with the governors of the Mexican border states of Sonora, Baja, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas. The group may publicly announce agreements on certain border issues, presenting a united front to officials in Washington, DC, and Mexico City, said Buddy Garcia, Texas deputy secretary of state. Governors are expected to discuss assorted economic issues, such as agriculture, technology exchanges, oil and gas production, and electricity.

Source: http://www.woai.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=A8FE217B–D05F–47B9–B7A5–A3FA30D1F2EF

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *August 24, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: At 5:00 a.m. EDT, Thursday, August 24, the center of Tropical Storm Debby was located near latitude 19.6 north longitude 36.3 west or about 845 miles west–northwest of the Cape Verde Islands. Debby is moving toward the west–northwest near 20 mph and a west–northwest to northwest motion is expected over the next 24 hours. Maximum sustained winds are near 45 mph with higher gusts. Some slight strengthening is possible during the next 24 hours. Eastern Pacific: At 11:00 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, August 23, Hurricane Ileana with winds about 105 mph was located at 19.4 north 113.5 or about 320 miles southwest of the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula. Ileana is moving toward the west–northwest at 11 mph. There is an 18 hour window for Ileana to intensify a bit before moving over cooler waters. At 6:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday Hurricane Ioke was located at 17.9 north 171.2 west. The storm with sustained winds about 104 mph is moving across open waters and does not currently threaten any U.S. interests.
To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>
Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat082406.shtm>
27. *August 23, Associated Press* — **Emergency radios improve after Katrina.** A year following Hurricane Katrina, rescuers and relief workers along the Gulf Coast are more likely to be able to communicate with one another during a crisis than they were after Katrina. But despite the patchwork measures taken to help avert a repeat of last year's debacle, action has remained scarce beyond the creation of more joint panels and task forces that, like their predecessors, have been bogged down by disagreement over how to do it, how to pay for it, and the frictions that typically arise whenever multiple arms of government "work together." At the very least, though, officials have implemented interim solutions using relatively low–cost, low–tech equipment that's been available for years. Those efforts began with repairs to existing wireless networks damaged by last year's storms. Local and federal agencies also have purchased more bridging systems that can patch together many assorted makes and models of radios. In addition, state and federal agencies have been outfitting trucks with a combination of bridging, satellite and power–generation equipment so they can be moved around and transmit from areas where there are network or electrical outages.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/technology/AP–Katrina–Emergencny–Communications.html?_r=1&oref=slogin
28. *August 23, Technology News Daily* — **Operation College Freedom tests response to a terrorist attack and new technologies.** Operation College Freedom on Tuesday, August 22, tested how San Diego emergency and law–enforcement agencies respond to a simulated terrorist attack. The disaster exercise also showcased an unprecedented and productive partnership between those agencies and the University of California–San Diego (UCSD), where researchers and experts in emergency medicine have developed more than a dozen new technologies that were demonstrated during the drill on the UCSD campus. “This full–scale exercise is the culmination of a three–year, \$4 million research project carried out by the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2),” said Calit2 associate director Leslie Lenert, M.D., a professor of medicine at UCSD.
To learn more about the technologies tested during the drill:
<http://www.calit2.net/newsroom/article.php?id=923>
Source: <http://www.technologynewsdaily.com/node/4174>

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

29. *August 24, Washington Post* — **Apple to recall notebook batteries.** Apple Computer Inc. will recall 1.1 million lithium-ion batteries sold with notebooks in the United States and 700,000 abroad after nine devices overheated, causing minor burns in two users, U.S. safety regulators said on Thursday, August 24. The recall is the second biggest in U.S. history involving electronics or computers, after No. 1 PC maker Dell Inc. recalled 4.1 million lithium-ion batteries last week, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said. In both cases the batteries had power cells made by Sony Corp.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/24/AR2006082400833.html>
30. *August 23, Cisco* — **Cisco Security Advisory: Unintentional password modification in Cisco firewall products.** Certain versions of the software for the Cisco PIX 500 Series Security Appliances, the Cisco ASA 5500 Series Adaptive Security Appliances (ASA), and the Firewall Services Module (FWSM) are affected by a software bug that may cause the EXEC password, passwords of locally defined usernames, and the enable password in the startup configuration to be changed without user intervention. Unauthorized users can take advantage of this bug to try to gain access to a device that has been reloaded after passwords in its startup configuration have been changed. In addition, authorized users can be locked out and lose the ability to manage the affected device. Cisco has made free software available to address this issue for affected customers. Affected products: Cisco PIX 500 Series Security Appliances, the Cisco ASA 5500 Series Adaptive Security Appliances, and the Firewall Services Module (FWSM) for the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Switches and Cisco 7600 Series Routers are impacted if they are running an affected software version.
Solution: Refer to source to obtain fixes and workarounds.
Source: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco-sa-20060823-firewall.shtml>
31. *August 23, IDG News Service* — **Sophos offers free rootkit detection tool.** Sophos has released a free tool to help PC users root out rootkits. Called Sophos Anti-Rootkit, the software will detect and remove both known and unknown rootkits, and it will also warn system administrators if removing the software might harm operating system integrity. Sophos Anti-Rootkit can be downloaded here:
<http://www.sophos.com/products/free-tools/sophos-anti-rootkit.html>
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2006/082306-sophos-offers-free-rootkit-detection.html>
32. *August 23, Security Focus* — **IBM to acquire Internet Security Systems.** IBM announced on Wednesday, August 23, that the technology giant has agreed to buy Internet Security Systems, an all-cash deal that the company valued at \$1.3 billion. The purchase is the latest deal in a trend of consolidation in the security industry.
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/287>

33. *August 22, IDG News Service* — **Cisco to acquire Arroyo for \$92 million.** Cisco Systems will acquire on-demand video software company Arroyo Video Systems for \$92 million, Cisco said Monday, August 21. The buy is Cisco's second so far this month, having taken a majority stake in data center company Nuovo Systems on August 10.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/08/22/HNciscobuysarroyo_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 25 (smtp), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 113 (auth), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 1434 (ms-sql-m) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/ .	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

34. *August 24, USA TODAY* — **U.S. hasn't seen a fire season like this in six years.** Hundreds of thousands of acres, mostly in the West, continued to burn Wednesday, August 23, in the nation's most intense wildfire season in six years, federal fire officials said. Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon were seeing the worst of the fires as nearly 760,000 acres burned in the four states, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. Unusually hot, dry, and windy conditions have intensified this year's season, said Russ Rivera, fire information officer for the center. Last year's less intense season also left combustible material such as twigs and dead leaves around to burn, he said. Forty-three new fires started Tuesday and Wednesday in the area of Burns, OR. Officials were especially concerned by four fires burning 20,000 acres, said Jeree Mills, spokesperson for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland. Those fires threatened ranches and a main power distribution line, and 45-foot flames prompted officials to close Highway 205 several times, she said. The West is seeing the worst of the fires, but people across the country are at risk, said Rivera. People can protect themselves by cleaning dead materials from their properties, planting flowers and other moist foliage and removing woodpiles from porches, Rivera said.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/news/2006-08-23-western-wild-fires_x.htm

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